



Assassination Information Bureau

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HW

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MEMO: Re: AIB Document Research

The following proposal was prepared by Peter Dale Scott, an AIB adviser and associate researcher, to point attention to the importance of continuing the outside critics' on-going research into the JFK files released during the past year by the FBI (additional releases have also been made, and are anticipated again in 1979, by the CIA and Secret Service). The project has ground to a halt as of September, 1978, from a lack of funds to support Washington readers and xeroxing costs.

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These documents have not been released in a spirit of good will from the various agencies, but as a result of years of protracted struggle in court, most notably by the critics Harold Weisberg, Jim Lesar, Paul Hoch, and Bernard Fensterwald. Additional Freedom of Information suits are still pending and more releases are expected in 1979. A hundred thousand and more pages on JFK have already been released in 1978. The AIB-organized document search project has so far (mid-February '79) covered only 15% of this material.

Even so, results have been gratifying. Of several investigative leads recovered by this project, the most dramatic was the one that brought outside critics to Charles Bronson of Ada, Oklahoma, and his previously unheard-of home movie of the Dealey Plaza assassination. The Bronson film may contain evidence bearing definitively on our conception of the crime. The crucial 92 frames are still awaiting funds for computerized enhancement needed to establish whether the two or three sets of blurred images visible in the supposed "lone-assassin's" nest are those of human figures. If they are, another major blow will have been delivered to the belief that Oswald was in any sense JFK's "lone-assassin".

What kind of reading procedure already exists? So far there is an informal coast-to-coast network of approximately fifteen master critics working with the AIB's Washington readers, who identify and pull out all interesting documents and pass them on for more careful scrutiny and cataloguing. None of these researchers is institutionally supported in any way.

A second plan would be to get as many of these researchers as possible his/her own microfilmed set of the documents (see below). This system would work from the outside back into the AIB for dissemination.

MEMO: Re: FBI File Project
From: Peter Dale Scott

To date I have read about a thousand FBI documents in the Oswald and John F. Kennedy assassination files which have been pulled by AIB and other researchers, and catalogued by Paul Hoch. After only a short scrutiny of these documents, I am convinced beyond doubt that there is an important new area for research; one which may not provide a "smoking gun" but will help illuminate the posture of FBI and other government agencies toward Oswald, etc., after and even before the assassination.

There are several tasks to be done:

- 1- Cull more documents and catalogue them (so far, only 15% of the 100,000 pages have been scanned by AIB volunteers).
- 2- Look for new and/or suppressed evidence, especially in the areas focused on by the HSCA Report (e.g., second gunman, Cuban exiles, organized crime, etc.).
- 3- Identify (with appropriate organizational charts) the principal "field" and "seat of government" agents involved in handling the case, and more specifically the trouble-shooters dealing with sensitive and problem areas. Locate among these the "special handlers" responsible for anomalous handling (e.g., orders not to interview, failures to refer or cross-file, political efforts to restrict the investigation by the Warren Commission and others, downplaying of significant information, suppression or re-writing of significant leads in later reports, discrediting of significant witnesses, especially sensitive procedures within the Bureau, etc.). Attempt to categorize what might be called routine anomalies (protection of Bureau and other government agencies, special relationships, etc.) and focus particularly on possible residue.
- 4- Correlate "special handlers" in the JFK case with personnel in the MLK case, Malcolm X surveillance, COINTELPROS, mail intercepts, and FBI



abuses especially in Domestic Intelligence Division (Division Five) and possibly the Crime Records Division (Division Eight). [JFK, MLK, Malcolm X, and COINTELPRO documents have all been declassified and are available on microfiche -- see below].

- 5- Assemble biographies, etc., for "special handlers".
- 6- Attempt to interview former agents and their colleagues.
- 7- Attempt to identify disinformation sources, especially from other government agencies.

The specific conspiracy leads suggested by the House Select Committee have tended to focus on individuals and groups outside government, especially in Cuban exile groups and certain areas of organized crime. As their leads are published, it will be especially important to know which of them were known to the FBI, how they were handled, and by whom. In general, the inevitable tendency of the governmental process in Washington to focus primarily on "external" targets like organized crime makes this FBI project even more timely.

Friends of the assassination research community all over the country can help, since the entire 100,000 pages of FBI documents on JFK are available for \$800 on microfiche.

Microfiches:

Microfilming Corp. of America
21 Harristown Road
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

(for JFK, \$800)

Scholarly Resources, Inc.
1508 Pennsylvania Ave.
Wilmington, DEL 19806

(for MLK, \$535; Malcolm X
surveillance, \$40; COINTELPRO, \$595)

